



# TAMBA News

Winter 2011-2012 Issue

The Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA) is dedicated to the stewardship of sustainable, multiple-use trails and to preserving access for mountain bikers through advocacy, education and promotion of responsible trail use.

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## President's Message

Greetings Friends,  
It's been a year full of successes for the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association. Credit belongs to our many hard working volunteers who are passionate about the sport of mountain biking and willing to put in the effort to make it better. Thank you! I also need to thank the US Forest Service and Nevada State Parks for their cooperation and eagerness to work with us on trail projects. We are very lucky to have both world class trails and fantastic cooperation between land managers and user groups.

People often ask me how they can help. There are many ways to get involved, but here is the number one way to help keep trails open to bikes; Stay in control, pass other users at a socially acceptable speed to them, smile, and say hello. It's that easy. As a former downhill racer, I love to go fast. But there is a time and a place for everything and a multi-use trail full of hikers and blind corners on a busy weekend is not the place or time for speed. Being courteous to others will go a long way to preserving and increasing our access to these fantastic trails!

I'm really looking forward to what we can do for mountain biking next year. I hope you will join us!

Happy Holidays!  
Kevin Joell

## TAMBA Showcase Rides



### Rose to Toads Group Ride

Twenty people showed up in early September for this iconic ride that we hope will become an annual TAMBA event. The riders began the trek on the Tahoe Rim Trail from Tahoe Meadows near Mount Rose and finished the ride at the bottom of Mr. Toads in South Lake Tahoe. Although there were several spots to shorten the trek, nine people completed the whole ride which was over 60 miles!



### Star Lake Group Ride

Around forty people joined us in October to ride the brand new Star Lake Connector Trail and the recently reworked Cold Creek Trail. Jacob Quinn from the Forest Service came along to talk about some of the work that went into the new trail.

### 2012 Rides

We're planning several showcase rides next year to display current projects that we have been helping with. We are also looking at trying to do fun rides more often, maybe even on a weekly basis!

## 2011 TAMBA Goals - a progress report

At our first meeting in January, with the help of those who attended, we crafted several goals for the year to identify our priorities. They are listed here in bold with a description of the progress we made towards them.

**Successful incorporation of the organization** - Our non-profit status from the previous TAMBA was revoked for lack of filing. Our reinstatement is still ongoing, but significant strides have been made towards completing this with a goal of completion in the next few months.

**Create a geographically and categorically diverse membership base of 250 paid members in one year** - We met and exceeded this goal, with current membership nearing 300!

**Successful workdays on USFS trail projects. A goal of 100 person days in 2011** - We held 5 TAMBA Trail Days and partnered with neighboring groups for 5 more. This totaled nearly 1100 hours of volunteer service to the trails. That is equivalent to approximately 140 person days.

**Be actively involved in current planning processes for a community bike park** - We partnered with South Lake BMX to propose a new BMX track with a bike park at Bijou Park in South Lake Tahoe. After initial meetings with the City, a draft plan has been created and we look forward to getting city approval and support for the project. Once we get approval, we'll need lots of help with fundraising and building the park. Specialized has offered a \$5,000 matching grant to help with that. We have also partnered with the Truckee Pump Track Project folks on their project in Truckee which is likely to break ground next spring.

**Aid in the design, flagging, and creation of the proposed Kingsbury area expert downhill trail** - This idea has the support of the Forest Service. What we really need is someone with downhill/freeride experience who is willing to take this project and run with it. This is an opportunity to have a lasting impact on a new trail, but it's going to take some patience.

**Pursue mountain bike access to the TRT Snow Valley Peak Section** - With the help of TAMBA member Jim Backhus, we had trail counters placed on the trail for 78 days over the summer to record current use. In October, a trail assessment was performed to identify areas of the trail that need improvement. A formal proposal is being drafted to request that this section be changed to multi-use. That should be submitted before the end of the year.

**Coordinate with neighboring agencies and advocacy groups to keep communication open and help lay groundwork for future projects** - We crafted relationships with the Forest Service LTBMU, Nevada State Parks, and organizations like Truckee Trails Foundation, Carson Valley Trails Association, the Poedunks, and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, working together on several projects this year. We look forward to expanding our relationships with neighboring agencies such as the Tahoe National Forest and Humboldt-Toiyabe NF in the future.

We're pretty stoked about the progress that TAMBA made this year. So what's next? We'll continue working on the goals that are not finished yet and we'll be coming up with a new set of goals for 2012. This may include things like successfully implementing the Adopt-A-Trail program, increasing the frequency and attendance for TAMBA Trail Days, planning and building a singletrack loop on the east shore with Nevada State Parks, and beginning the planning process for a West Shore Trail that will eventually connect Truckee to Tahoe City and Tahoe City to Meeks Bay. Do you have an idea for a trail project, event, or education opportunity? Please let us know! Because we're all volunteers and time is limited, projects that have someone willing to take an idea from conception to completion are the most likely to happen.

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## End of Season Party a success!

Over 70 people came out to our End of Season party on November 30 at Mo's Place. Mo was a great host and had some great deals on PBR and Fat Tire for us!

We had 30 new members join through the party and many renewals for next year. Thanks to our sponsors and everyone who bought tickets, we raised around \$600 towards our purchase of trail tools!



## Adopt-a-Trail Program

We are in the process of implementing an agreement with the Forest Service to adopt certain trails in the Tahoe Basin. This will enable us to get more people involved and provide for flexibility in the time and formality of the existing TAMBA trail work days. TAMBA and the Forest Service would train crew leaders to help the community with neighborhood trails by providing maintenance, clearing obstructions, fixing drainage problems, and generally protecting the integrity of existing multi-use trails. Many people are already out there as "trail elves" - but once this agreement is in place, we can legitimize these activities and ensure that work meets land manager standards. Along these lines we will create Trail Committees around the lake to lead efforts on trail work improvements and give updates on trail conditions. To create a solid base of volunteers, these committees will consist of local riders and others who are tied into the local trails.

## Trail Director's Message

by Ben Fish

A late start to the season due to snow did not stop us from riding and working on many well loved multi-use trails this year. In July, we signed a Volunteer Service Agreement with the Forest Service which enabled us to hold trail building days on multi-use trails within the Tahoe Basin. Working with the tools and crew leaders from the Forest Service we were able to construct, build and most importantly provide mountain biker input for features and trail design on Armstrong Connector Trail, Corral Trail, Christmas Valley Trail, Tyrolean Downhill, and Toads (Saxon Creek). The trail building days were held on weekends with the number of TAMBA volunteers that showed up each time ranging from 15 to 30 people. In the spirit of keeping the days fun, we provided free lunch and free post work BBQ complete with beer for the volunteers. At a few events, schwag donated by local businesses was given out to volunteers.



The IMBA Trail Care Crew visit in April was our first trail work this year. The IMBA crew taught several classes and then we went down to Genoa to help Carson Valley Trails Association break ground on the Sierra Canyon Trail project.

Some examples of the work we did this year include building a couple major rock armored berms on the Armstrong Connector Trail, reworking the lower 2 miles of the Christmas Valley Trail with minor design adjustments, and improving the downhill flow on Tyrolean Trail above Incline Village.

Being able to work on Toads with two formal trail days was a personal highlight for me. After many tough winters and years of use, we were able to work with the USFS on rebuilding parts of the upper rock section to stabilize the trail tread and halt erosion. On Toads we were also able to incorporate some large slab features, turning them into drops and steep rollers while closing off some bogus alternate lines. With

much debate on a few of the most technical areas, we were able to keep the old-school challenging sections just as fun as ever. If you were not able to ride Toads after our Fall work days this year, put it at the top of your list for next summer!

Aside from trail work on existing trails, we have a couple other projects in the works that need support and energy to move forward. First off is the creation of a downhill trail from the top of Kingsbury Grade. This summer, a few of us walked a partial alignment to re-route the existing Stinger Trail (aka Chinese Downhill). We scouted out some rock features that could easily give Northstar a run for the money. This is very preliminary, but with the help of a dedicated group we could have an alignment flagged and mapped out by the Forest Service to be included in a permitting document to take place over next winter.

It has been seven years since many of us rode the original (and illegal) Jackie Chan's that was closed down. We now have the opportunity to rally together and LEGALLY build a fun downhill trail that will last us well into the future, and be ridden by our kids!

Speaking of kids, the next project we kicked into gear this summer is the creation of a Mountain Bike Skills Park in South Lake Tahoe. We have partnered with the BMX track to incorporate a relocated track along with mountain bike elements such as a pump track, skill zones and dirt jump area. The location we have talked to the City about is in Bijou Park which would complement the existing uses already there and also tie into the trail system to create an urban trailhead.

Getting dirty with friends to keep our trails alive and healthy is fun and makes the riding here that much better - please stay tuned next summer to get involved and give back to this amazing network of trails that Tahoe has to offer. To be able to give rider input is a privilege and honor. In the meantime, if you have ideas or suggestions, please send an e-mail to [trails@mountainbiketahoe.org](mailto:trails@mountainbiketahoe.org).



Volunteers on the Tyrolean Trail Day in October

## The History of TAMBA

After attending an IMBA meeting in 1987 where they learned about educating riders about responsible riding and protecting bike access on trails, a small group of local mountain bike pioneers recognized the need to have a unified voice to represent the passion and growth of the sport.

The original TAMBA was organized in 1988 by Kathlee Martin and Jesse<sup>1</sup> in North Lake Tahoe, and Gary Bell, owner of Sierra Ski and Cycle Works in South Lake Tahoe. The three developed a model program driven by volunteers who helped to build trails and educate riders. Although never called upon, TAMBA even developed a bike search and rescue team, a first in the nation.

As spokespeople for mountain biking in the Tahoe-Truckee area, TAMBA grew quickly as a legitimate user group working with land managers. By 1996, they had well over 1,500 members. Due to the hard work of the three founders and folks like Greg Forsyth of Cyclepaths, pro-racer Max Jones, local bike shops and many other individuals, TAMBA made progress on getting bike access returned to many closed trails and launched very successful education and trail maintenance programs. Bell's wife Becky also worked tirelessly with IMBA and the offices of California Senators Feinstein and Boxer to keep mountain bike trails near Mr. Toad's, Kirkwood and Caples Creek out of proposed wilderness designations. Forsyth and Aaron Martin also promoted fun events and races like the Tahoe Roubaix and Tahoe Fat Tire Festival that defined Tahoe's bike culture, attracting attention and riders to Tahoe and Truckee. The growing bike park at Northstar held annual fundraising events for TAMBA as well.

While still very involved with the organization, Gary and Becky passed the torch to a new board in 2001. Dave Hamilton, Dave Cooper, Greg Forsyth and Gregg Betonte led the group during a major time of transition in the bike world when big downhill bikes evolved the sport once again, challenging land managers to address the desires of this new riding style. Over time, however, interest in TAMBA waned for various reasons and the club faded away, becoming all but dormant by 2004.

By 2010, the Tahoe area had been void of an active mountain bike group for quite a while. Wanting to get input from local mountain bikers, the Forest Service partnered with IMBA to host the Tahoe Trails Conference in October 2010. After the conference, you could feel the energy in the room. About 20 people stayed afterwards and met with the IMBA rep to discuss what we could do locally to create a mountain bike group. A second meeting was scheduled and was very well attended by the community. After lots of input on what to do, it was suggested that we bring back TAMBA. A couple more meetings were held over the winter to assemble a core group of volunteers who became the new board. The new TAMBA held its first meeting in late January 2011.

A new board has injected the 22-year old club with new representation, while continuing the focus on rider education and trail building. The rest, as they say, is history. Enjoy the ride!

## Trail Rewards Program

We're putting together a rewards program to recognize our members who volunteer for trail work. Several custom items will eventually be part of this, but we're starting with these awesome TAMBA pint glasses. They will go to everyone that does three TAMBA Trail Days.



This year, the following people volunteered for at least three work days:

Jake Dore	Pete Fink
Christine Dobrowolski	Ben Fish
Eric Sudhausen	Kevin Joell
Mike Lefrancois	Paul Tolme
Brian Kelly	John Drum
Mark Reeves	Nils Miller
Brian Judge	Amy Fish
	Mike Alameda

## Tahoe Fat Tire Festival

As many of you know we were in the running to host the 2012 IMBA World Summit. This would have given the area significant exposure as a mountain biking destination. In the end it was a very close competition, but IMBA chose to go to Santa Fe, NM. On the positive side, one of the things that looks like will come out of it is bringing back the Tahoe Fat Tire Festival. Greg Forsyth started the original Festival in the 1980's and is on board with helping us make it happen again. Tentatively scheduled for late September 2012, it will be a joint effort with many organizations. Planning meetings are starting soon, contact us if you are interested in being involved.

## THANKS!

We received donations from the following businesses this year. Please support them and tell them **thanks** for helping to make mountain biking better in the Tahoe area!

Sprouts Cafe - Yellow Subs - CLIF Bar  
 Watabike - T's Rotisserie - Black Rock Bicycles  
 Blue Dog Pizza - Shoreline of Tahoe - Sports LTD  
 South Shore Bikes - Sierra Cycle Works - Kirkwood  
 Bike Habitat - Dude Girl Clothing - Pearl Izumi  
 Bang Bang - Svadhyaya Yoga - The Studio Pilates  
 One World Healing Massage - RISE - Synergy Sport  
 Village Ski Loft - Camelbak - Sierra-at-Tahoe  
 Biospirit Spa - Sierra Sports Marketing

<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, we could not confirm Jesse's last name. If you can, please let us know.

### Who We Are

The volunteers that make this happen:

#### TAMBA Board

- Kevin Joell, President
- John Drum, Vice President
- Lauren Lindley, Secretary
- Linda George, Treasurer
- Ben Fish, Trails Director
- Nils Miller, Communications Director

#### Other Positions

- Pete Fink, Advocacy Coordinator
- Frank LaForge, Membership Coordinator
- Amy Fish, Webmaster
- Mike LeFrancois, North Shore Rep
- Sandor Lengyel, West Shore Rep

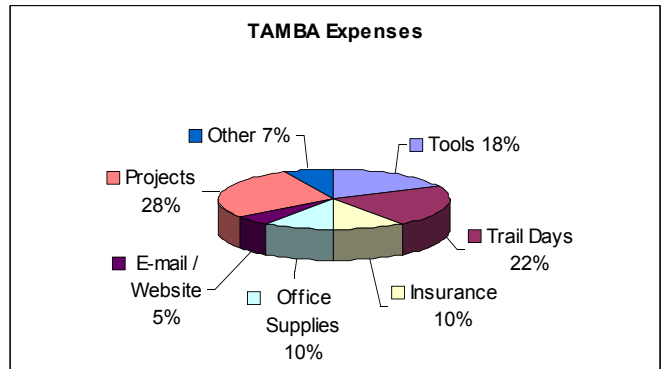
We want to thank Linda George for her help in getting the organization started and her service as our Treasurer this first year. She will be stepping down as Treasurer and we are welcoming Judy Weber to the Board as our new Treasurer! Our webmaster Amy Fish, will also be joining the board in 2012!

### 2012 TAMBA Membership

Effective January 1st, our dues will be going up to better reflect insurance and operating costs. The new membership dues will be:

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Business \$50

Where do your dollars go? Since we are an all volunteer organization, they go directly to supporting our rider education and trail conservation activities. Here's an approximation of what we spend your membership money on:



Office Supplies- PO Box, Printing, Postage, IMBA Dues, etc.  
Projects- Trail Signage, South Lake Bike Park, Truckee Pump Track, etc.  
Other- Unbudgeted expenses



### 2012 TAMBA Membership Form

The Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association is dedicated to the stewardship of sustainable, multiple-use trails and to preserving access for mountain bikers through advocacy, education and promotion of responsible trail use.

Your membership will help us further our advocacy, education, and trail building efforts. We need YOUR Support! Join us and be part of the movement to improve riding opportunities in the Tahoe area. We're working on expanding membership benefits like discounts at participating Tahoe bike shops! Keep up to date on trail work opportunities and other events on the web at [www.mountainbiketahoe.org](http://www.mountainbiketahoe.org) or on facebook - 'Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association'.

- Membership Type:     New Member             Renewal  
 \$20 Individual             \$30 Family             \$50 Business (includes website listing)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  Check if you do NOT want to receive e-mail updates from TAMBA.

Family members(for family membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to: TAMBA, PO Box 13712, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151  
Memberships are also available online at [www.mountainbiketahoe.org](http://www.mountainbiketahoe.org)  
Membership fees are not currently tax-deductible. We're working on that.

### TAMBA Rules of the Trail

(Circa 1997, but just as applicable today)

Although the majority of riders are responsible and respect other users and the trails, as TAMBA members we need to set a positive example for all riders. As a responsible user group, we realize that people judge all mountain bikers by our actions. That's why we respect the following rules in order to guarantee our riding privileges now and in the future.

#### TAMBA Rules of the Trail

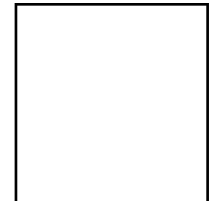
- Ride on open trails only
- Always yield the right of way to other trail users
- Avoid wet areas and meadows - walk your bike or carry it
- Don't ride around snow patches, ride over them to help it melt
- Control your speed - slow down and pass with care
- Minimize impact - don't skid
- Don't make unnecessary switchbacks or cut between trails
- Stay on designated trails
- Don't spook horses or wildlife, ring a bell or say hello
- Pack out litter
- Stay off of the PCT and Wilderness areas
- Have FUN!

THANK YOU!

Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association  
PO Box 13712  
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### Take-a-Kid Mountain Biking Day

TAMBA partnered with the Tahoe Bike Patrol to host local kids for IMBA's Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day on October 1st at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Nevada State Parks graciously waived the park entry fees for kids and their parents. It was one of over 230 events registered through IMBA. The goal was to have 30,000 kids participate worldwide. Locally, we had a dozen kids come out and experience mountain biking first hand in a beautiful setting. There was riding information, bike safety checks, and informal skill clinics. Groups of kids with similar skills were taken on the recently opened-to-bikes beginner trail around Spooner Lake. There were big smiles all around!



**Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.**  
**-The Lorax by Dr. Seuss**